(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to start a scheme to sell wheat and rice in the open market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Sale of wheat and rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.1997. Therefore, question of using discretionary powers by the officials of FCI for the sale of wheat and rice in the open market does not arise.

(b) and (c) FCI did not conduct open auction for its stocks at various depots under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic). Selling of wheat and rice by inviting tenders can result in monopoly of a few buyers. On practical considerations, Govt. had decided to undertake open sale of wheat and rice at fixed rates.

(d) and (e) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration with the Government to sell wheat and rice in the open market.

Transportation of Wheat by the Special Goods Train

1132. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bags of wheat sent from Hissar to Rewari for distribution through Public Distribution System by a special goods train on March 1, 1997;

(b) whether the said goods train was sent to another place instead of Rewari;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the manner in which the said bags were brought back to Rewari;

(e) the additional amount spent thereon and the manner in which the amount was paid and the name of the persons who made this payment;

(f) whether the Government have taken any action against the guilty officials; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No special goods train with wheat bags was despatched from Hissar to Rewari by the FCI on March 1, 1997.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Opening of Central Agriculture University

1133. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Central Agriculture University in the Country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and State-wise;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Agricultural Education is a state subject. In Bihar, there are already two State Agriculture Universities. For opening another university the State Govt. has to assess the requirements based on Man Power Planning.

[Translation]

Scheduled Tribe List

1134. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases under consideration of the Government for inclusion in the List of Scheduled Tribes belonging to tribal areas at present along with the details of cases and the time from which these are under consideration, State-wise; and

(b) the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision on all such cases?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) *Statement* showing State-